

# **SIXTH FLEET STRATEGIC PLAN**



**Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles  
and Strategic Goals**

# Introduction



The SIXTH FLEET Strategic Plan charts a course for us to steer. By clearly defining our mission, providing a vision for the future, and following our guiding principles, we can plot that course and fix critical waypoints that will guide us to the fulfillment of our mission.

It is an “all hands” effort. It calls on the professional skills of every officer, Sailor and Marine assigned to SIXTH FLEET, working as a team to accomplish each day’s tasks. It needs the support of our families and our friends.

We must be ready to defend U. S. interests in this theater. It is a crucial mission, one at which our fellow citizens and families count on us to be preeminent. Our forward presence is, itself, an important deterrent to aggression, but the best guarantee of peace is to both live in the neighborhood and be prepared for conflict.

Being ready requires innovation. The combat arms have never rewarded those who cling to outmoded ideas, or were reluctant to embrace change. We must seek out ways to further enhance the great flexibility, mobility, sustainability and power projection capabilities of our naval expeditionary forces.

Use this strategic plan as a guide as you build your own strategic plan, on your ship, squadron, submarine or staff -- wherever you are assigned in SIXTH FLEET. You have the challenge, you have the course, you have the conn.



**VADM STEVE ABBOT, USN**  
**Commander, Sixth Fleet**  
**January 1997**

# Mission



The mission of Commander, Sixth Fleet, is to be persuasive in peace, decisive in war, and preeminent in any form of conflict. To achieve this, we will:

- ★ Conduct joint and combined operations in support of unified and allied commanders;
- ★ Operate, exercise, maintain, and sustain combat-ready forces to deter aggression and reassure regional allies;

- ★ Engage regional littoral nations to maintain stability and promote U. S. national interests.

- ★ Provide our people and their families with the best possible working and living environments.





# Vision



Our Vision is to be the premier naval force, actively engaged in the theater to reassure friends and allies, deter potential aggressors, and respond immediately with the necessary capabilities to execute assigned mission. To meet this Vision, Sixth Fleet forces should be:

- ★ a principle force for stability and engagement in the European theater
- ★ technically superior
- ★ innovative and encouraging of new thinking and new approaches
- ★ flexible and ready to adapt quickly to changing threats and challenges
- ★ responsive to emerging crises
- ★ active in demonstrating new warfighting concepts in an operational environment: “the Sixth Fleet warfighting laboratory”
- ★ efficient use of our resources
- ★ a recognized leader when operating in joint and combined environments

# Guiding Principles



## *We serve our Country by:*

- ★ reflecting in all our actions our oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and maintain the public trust as ambassadors of the American spirit.

## *We serve our Navy and Marine Corps by:*

- ★ maintaining our primary focus on professional, effective and innovative maritime operations.
- ★ striving for excellence.
- ★ providing strong and responsible leadership.
- ★ fostering team work and pride embracing the core values of:
  - ★ honor
  - ★ courage
  - ★ commitment



# Guiding Principles



## *We accomplish our Mission by:*

- ★ ensuring the integration of naval operations throughout the spectrum of warfare with all U. S. and allied armed forces; and providing to our operating forces the resources, guidance, and latitude necessary to fight and win on the battlefields of the future;
- ★ continually striving for quality improvement in the stewardship of resources entrusted to us;
- ★ using the chain of command, reducing bureaucracy and delegating authority to the appropriate command level;
- ★ constantly improving our performance by ensuring actions are based on full knowledge of available information and careful analysis.

## *We serve our people by:*

- ★ providing them the leadership, resources, and the authority to do their job, and encouraging their improvement and upward mobility;
- ★ fostering the highest personal and professional conduct among ourselves and in our relations with the citizens of host nations;
- ★ treating each other with courtesy, respect, and dignity, with continuous improvement of our quality of life and ensuring equal opportunity for all;
- ★ maintaining a safe work environment, free of intimidation and conducive to individual initiative, team spirit, and open communication;
- ★ ensuring the physical, professional, ethical and intellectual.



# Strategic Goals



## *Warfighting and Crisis Response*

1. Force capabilities: Determine what forces and capabilities COMSIXTHFLEET needs to execute assigned missions, and protect assigned forces. Provide periodic feedback on these requirements for use by the force providers.
2. Flex forces: Investigate methods for maximizing the operational output of forward deployed forces. Identify levels of output in all warfare areas. Once identified, the data can be used to predict what force outputs can be achieved and sustained during crisis response operations.
3. JTF command: Foster the capability (including the C4I capabilities of the command ship and the training of the staff) to function as a JTF commander.
4. Tactical proficiency: Develop means to improve the forces' tactical competencies, with special emphasis on undersea warfare, theater missile defense, and strike warfare (particularly TLAM). Employ these means during exercises and operations to refine tactical skills.



# Strategic Goals



## *Forward Presence and Engagement*

1. Exercise MOEs: Develop and implement a means to evaluate exercises in order to refine their contribution to the engagement plan.
2. Engagement at the seams: Nations at the boundaries between AORs are more difficult to engage. Coordinate engagement efforts with adjacent commands to compensate for these difficulties.
3. NATO leadership: Analyze allied and coalition operations, and identify appropriate roles for COMSIXTHFLEET.

## *Logistics and Support*

1. Inter-fleet operability: Reduce the differences between the numbered fleets' procedures in order to provide seamless transitions for deployers when they cross AOR boundaries.
2. Efficient operations: Analyze current fleet procedures with an eye toward uncovering inefficiencies. Adjust procedures to reduce costs without affecting operational performance.

## *Quality of Life*

1. Operational tempo: Adjust ships' schedules in order to improve the quality of life of our sailors and meet CNO's OPTEMPO goals.
2. Leadership: Develop a system of regularly assessing the moral and welfare of the assigned forces, and take actions accordingly.



**For more information** ★ ★ ★

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